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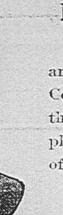
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THE FLEET IN ACTION

I.-Battlesnips and Destroyers

By Frederic J. Haskin.

tion would rest in case of war? The lutely no armor and are therefore other day they filed out past the God- sure of destruction if a big gun gets dess of Liberty in review beneath the eye of the President. A simplified navy is that of the United States, than battleships and destroyers.

Eighteen battleships and probably fleet. twice as many destroyers are participating in this war game. When this found. The destroyers would atforce put to sea from the harbor of tempt to communicate their infor-New York, each great ship, with its mation to their fellows and to the nose in the track of the vessel preceding it, and with the screen of de- prevent this by hammering away at stroyers thrown out in advance and to their instruments in such a way as right and left, a mighty force was set to interfere with the message. The in motion. Aboard each battleship destroyer flotilla would concentrate were 1 000 officers and men, or a total of 18,000 people. The destroyers carried 100 men each, which added another 3,600. So the population fog. these swift little vessels would of the fleet that was putting to sea Ariz., and Cheyenne, Wyo., combined, at Balaclava. No boat would show though each of these cities is the capital and metropolis of a state. There were more able bodied men aboard these ships than would be found in a city like Albany or Dallas or Spokane.

on the average, 20,000 tons and the of range. In the meantime, howdestroyers 1,000 tons. So here was a total of 4,000.000 tons of steel-such and of the enemy destroyers would a load as would require a freight train five miles long to haul. This ast force, rushing to sea at a speed out of range, they would reform for of twenty knots an hour, had cost the another dash. The enemy would be nation more than \$200,000,000 to build. Since the world began such ships were not sent to the bottom. an amount of money has not been spent in creating a thing that moves except by Great Britain in building another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting fleet that is bigger put of precious metals was about -2, another righting flee than this. Since time began no such titan force has ever been set in mo- \$4,500,000: tion except when great fleets have put

These battleships of the active fleet tell a remarkable tale of the deveopment in these floating fortresses. None of them is more than twenty years old for a battleship is con-sidered as having served its purpose and become useless in that time. Yet the older ships of the fleet, such as the Rhode Island, the New Jersey and the Nebraska, were born in tha era prior to 1906, when the dreadnought came into being and set a new standard in fighting ships. These vessels are of but 14,000 tons weights. Then appears the Delaware, that ship of a magnificent record, among the first of the dreadnoughts. It was completed in 1910 and weighed 20,000 tons, being the marvel of her time. Yet she is a small ship when compared with those new ships of the navy, the New York or the Texas, each of which weighs 27,000 tons. Its position is that which would be occupied by a man of six feet stature upon the appearance of a rival eight feet tall. Yet these latter giants are not to hold their place-for long, for the Pennsylvania and the Arizona are progressing toward completion and these are to weigh 31,000 tons and their arrival will be comparable with the heights of a ninefoot man. So has the size of the battleship doubled in a decade.

The Delaware may be considered

an average ship of the present navy. it having been the second dreadnought of the ten that are now in commission. The Delaware draws twenty-seven feet of water, and is 510 feet long. Its net work masts reach 115 fet above the water and the big guns may shoot through them without seriously damaging them. Each of the ship's anchors weighs 17,000 pounds and every link in the chain that holds them weighs 100 pounds. The armor on her sides is 11 inches thick. The pay roll of the ship is \$31,000 a month, and it costs \$8 a month to feed each man in the crew. Officers are required to maintain The 12-inch guns their own mess. are mounted two in a turret, and a turret, weighing 700 tons, may be turned about by the pressure of a finger which controls the electric mo-

These bartleships are the backbone of the fleet, and, American authorities hold, are still the element that will determine the control of the seas. Welch & Fullerton, druggists, They are huge, floating fortresses, the guns of which are intended to destroy whatever enemy they may encounter. Other naval craft are but the satellites that revolve about these stars of the first magnitude. Their purpose is to aid and to protect the

The destroyers are the most important of the smaller ships. They are the light cavalry of the seas. The

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The American fighting fleet is this purpose they serve is to the navy exweek off the coast of New England, actly that rendered to the army by its playing the war game. The greater cavalry. They are the scouts, the part of the manouvers of this year shields the leaders in wild dashes. are grouped around the assumption They are long, narrow, low vessels that the United States is being attack-weighing as much as 1,000 tons and ed by a foreign force seeking to land drawing ten feet of water. Each has an army. The fleet is going through four officers and 100 men. They are its paces in just the way it would the swiftest ships affoat, being capaproceed in case of the great emergen-ble of 39 knots, or 34 miles, an hour. The average destroyer is fitted with And just whet are these fighting three double torpedo tubes and with units upon which the fate of a na- five 3-inch guns. They have abso-

made up almost entirely of two class-es of ships—the battleship and the destroyer. There are great battle first task of the Americans would be cruisers in the navies of other na- to determine its whereabouts, to keep tions, but American cruisers are un-important and employed chiefly for patrol duty in the Carribbean and the Grient. The destroyer assumes the Grient. The destroyer assumes navy would send out its destroyers the duty of a cruiser in the fighting The destroyer flotilla of probably 25 fleet just as it serves the purpose of ships would be formed into five diagonboat when a vessel of light draft visions. Each division would choose is needed for river work. So the American navy at work on the war hundred miles would scour the language this week, has few ships other than battleships and destroyers.

dash in upon the great ships of the enemy as the light brigade charged enemy destroyers thrown out as screen. Past these, defying their torpedoes and 3-inch and 4-inch guns the charge would be carried. Hurtling themselves into range of the big ships they would launch their Each of these battleships, weighed, torpedoes, turn about and race out ever, the searchlights of the big ships have found them out and the gunners would be busy. Despite this, when indeed fortunate if some of the big

In Korea in 1912 the annual out-

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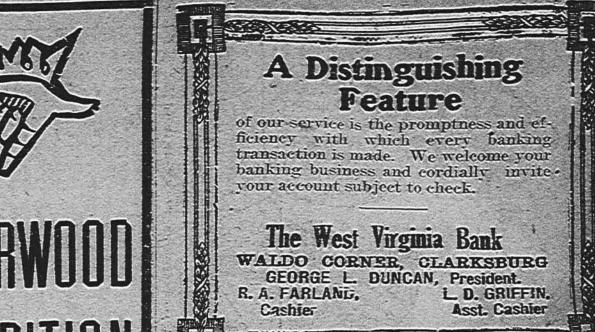
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